

What is claimed is:

1. A method of lexical analysis, comprising:  
receiving an input stream of characters;  
5 detecting a delimiter in the input stream, the delimiter being  
selected from the group consisting of a single character delimiter and a  
multi-character delimiter; and  
returning a token upon detecting the delimiter.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
reading the input stream one character at a time.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
forming the token by appending to a string at least one of the input  
15 stream characters preceding the delimiter.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
detecting a delimiter-token;  
returning the token upon detecting the delimiter token.
- 20 5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:  
returning the delimiter-token.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the delimiter-token is returned on a  
25 subsequent call to a lexical analyzer.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of detecting includes:  
comparing at least one of the input stream characters to a single  
character delimiter table and a multiple character delimiter table.

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8. The method of claim 1, for use in migrating pre-existing software  
code from a first version to a second version of a predetermined language.

9. A lexical analyzer, comprising:  
an input for receiving an input stream of characters;  
a detector for detecting a delimiter in the input stream, the delimiter  
being selected from the group consisting of a single character delimiter and a  
multi-character delimiter; and  
an output for returning a token upon detecting the delimiter.

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10. The lexical analyzer of claim 9, further comprising:  
means for forming the token by appending to a string at least one  
of the input stream characters preceding the delimiter.

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11. The lexical analyzer of claim 9, further comprising:  
means for detecting a delimiter-token;  
means for returning the token upon detecting the delimiter-token.

12. The lexical analyzer of claim 11, wherein the delimiter-token is  
returned on a subsequent call to the lexical analyzer.

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13. The lexical analyzer of claim 9, wherein the detector includes:  
a comparator for comparing at least one of the input stream  
characters to a single-character delimiter table and a multiple-character delimiter  
5 table.

14. The lexical analyzer of claim 9, for use in migrating pre-existing  
software code from a first version to a second version of a predetermined  
language.  
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15. Computer program product in a computer-usable medium,  
comprising:  
means for receiving an input stream of characters;  
means for detecting a delimiter in the input stream, the delimiter  
15 being selected from the group consisting of a single character delimiter and a  
multi-character delimiter; and  
means for returning a token upon detecting the delimiter.

16. The computer program product of claim 9, further comprising:  
20 means for forming the token by appending to a string at least one  
of the input stream characters preceding the delimiter.

17. The computer program product of claim 9, further comprising:  
means for detecting a delimiter-token; and  
25 means for returning the token upon detecting the delimiter-token.

18. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the delimiter-token is returned on a subsequent call to the computer program product.

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19. The computer program product of claim 9, wherein the detector includes:

means for comparing at least one of the input stream characters to a single-character delimiter table and a multiple-character delimiter table.

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20. The computer program product of claim 9, for use in migrating pre-existing software code from a first version to a second version of a predetermined language.

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